



Testimony to the Aging Committee

Submitted in support of

**Senate Bill 860, An Act Concerning Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility For Home Care
&
HB 6685, An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates**

February 17, 2015

The Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers (CAADC), an organization of 50 adult day centers from across the state of Connecticut, respectfully submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 860, *An Act Concerning Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for Home Care* and HB 6685, *An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates*.

Senate Bill 860, An Act Concerning Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility For Home Care

The proposal for presumptive Medicaid eligibility for the Home Care Program for Elders attempts to address a chronic crisis that is affecting all consumers and providers of long term care - the excessive delays in the Medicaid eligibility process. The complexity, misunderstanding and delays in the current application and eligibility process for both Medicaid and the State Funded Waiver Programs are thwarting timely access to needed community-based long term care services. The state must address this crisis and make it easier for older adults and their families to seek and receive the right services, at the right time, and in the right setting.

We are aware that there are many uncomplicated Medicaid applications for potential clients of the Connecticut Home Care Program just waiting to be processed. While these potential clients of the program are waiting for their applications to be processed, their conditions are declining, family members are losing time at work and nursing home admission becomes the only solution. This situation is contrary to what our state has promised which is to give full support to caring for older adults in the community and to delay or prevent nursing home admissions. The current eligibility processing crisis is breaking that promise. Therefore we support this proposed bill which would provide presumptive Medicaid eligibility, or other solutions that would provide timely coverage for community based services that will give many older adults and families an opportunity to remain at home receiving excellent services and family supports.

HB 6685, An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates

CAADC joins our colleagues in urging your continued support of increasing the provider rates within the Connecticut Home Care Program. While we understand the challenge the Connecticut Legislature faces to fairly fund so many vital services and programs, we firmly believe adult day centers and other community based services funded by this programs save Connecticut significant long-term care dollars by meeting the growing needs of Connecticut's elderly and their caregivers in the community and preventing premature placements in skilled nursing facilities, expensive emergency room visits and avoidable hospital stays.

We thank you for the 1% increase that was provided on January 1 of this year. With this increase, a full day of services provided by adult day centers, including door to door transportation, is reimbursed at a rate of \$70.92 a day. We provide nursing care, nutritional meals, personal bathing, and critical socialization. While grateful for the increase, adult day centers are continuing to lose money at this rate of reimbursement.

We encourage the Committee to support the bill before you which would provide an immediate increase in the rates and a plan to raise the rates to meet the cost of providing care. These are the appropriate steps to take to ensure a strong community based network of services for our aging adults.

Adult Day Center Services provided through the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders

Adult Day Center Services are a <i>full day of care</i>
Activities, Companionship, Socialization & Supervision
Medication Administration by licensed Nurses
Nutritious Meals including Breakfast, Hot Lunch, Snacks, and continuous encouragement of liquids
Bathing/Showers are available and personal care is provided
Caregiver Support , Information, and Education are readily available
Escorted Transportation, door to door , is provided to and from the Center
Assistance in Coordinating and Planning client's long term care needs is available
Opportunities for daily face to face individual consultations, information and referral, support and assistance
Currently reimbursed \$70.92 per day

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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View our video about how wonderful a day can be at a certified adult day center.

Go to www.leadingagect.org and click on **Adult Day Centers**